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Genesee Valley Park West Master Plan

City of Rochester, Project #20042, NYSDOS #C006965

Recreation / Facility Use and Programming Meeting

Date: February 21, 2013, 9:00-10:30 AM

Location: GVPW Sports Complex, 131 Elmwood Ave, Rochester NY 14611

A. ATTENDANCE

Name	Representing	Contact / Email
Jim Farr	City of Rochester	farrj@cityofrochester.gov
John Picone	City of Rochester	piconej@cityofrochester.gov
Zakery Steele	Bayer Landscape Architecture	zds@bayerla.com

B. MEETING PURPOSE / AGENDA

- 1. EXISTING RECREATION USE: Discuss existing recreation use throughout the year for fields, courts, and other facilities at GVPW.
- **2. PROGRAMMING DEVELOPMENT**: Discuss program ideas, existing issues, needs, desires and possible programming items to be incorporated into the park master plan.
- 3. UPCOMING PROJECTS: Discuss upcoming capital improvements that are already in the queue / planned /anticipated for the park.

C. EXISTING RECREATION USE – TYPICAL YEAR

- 1. **JANUARY**: Heart of the ice rink season, includes U of R Hockey, High Schools (Gates-Chili, Brighton home rinks), Youth Hockey, Adult Leagues (M-Th), Friday and Saturday nights are U of R mens and womens game nights, sectionals in February / March, adult/kids open skate (limited due to other games/use)
- 2. **FEBRUARY**: Continue typical January program. NYS Special Olympics / State Winter Games with Figure Skating and Speed Skating, Hockey leagues begin to wind down, Community event with skating
- 3. MARCH: Hockey leagues wrap up in mid-March, speed skating, continue adult/kids open skate. Rowing begins in late march depending on weather.
- 4. **APRIL**: Ice rink comes down in early April (1st or 2nd Saturday), rink facility is shut down for 2-3 weeks for transition to sport court floor, FleetFeet event in park, Kids Triathlon, Flower City Challenge/River Challenge Duathon and Triathlon.
- 5. MAY: Baseball / softball through the spring and summer, Roller derby on the Arena sport court, Floor hockey (adult league), canoe / kayak rentals begin at the end of May, Lacrosse in arena, sport court open rental times available, Genesee Valley Little League (GVLL)
- 6. **JUNE**: Tennis program (runs to October), Outdoor pool / swim open 7 days per week, Rochester Rapids Swim Team (to August, then to Adams St indoor pool for winter)
- 7. **JULY**: Sports camp (HQ at Field House) with soccer, basketball (@GVPW?), tennis, football, baseball, wrestling, golf, triathlon, hiking. Canal Cycle Tour stop (Jul 8). Love-15 Tennis Program (YMCA) begins, runs through August.
- 8. AUGUST: Sports Camp, Lacrosse winds down (Rochester Greywolves), Floor hockey ends, Arena sports court shuts down to prepare for ice rink.

- 9. **SEPTEMBER**: Ice rink opens up, Rochester River Challenge / Outrigger Canoe water sports event, Outdoor pool closes for season (Labor Day), Canoe and kayak rentals end
- 10. OCTOBER: River Romance events, Family skate, Head of the Genesee Regatta, School hockey and leagues begin, limited open skate time
- 11. NOVEMBER / DECEMBER: Arena ice rink season going Hockey, Skate, some winter community events

D. USE NOTES, EXSITING ISSUES, PROGRAM DEVELOPENT / DESIRES

- 1. **CONCESSIONS:** There is a need for concessions / improved concessions services / area. Issues in the past with concessions contracts, City is actively trying to sign new contract, and would like updated infrastructure/facility. The arena and park use is very high and opportunities for concessions are not being fully taken advantage of. Many arena / park users comment on the need for concessions noting that it's a large issue with the facility. However, there is still high use because of the quality of the ice and the customer service.
- 2. **OUTDOOR "PATIO" AREA:** Vendor would have ability to acquire liquor license to serves alcohol on adult game evenings or other large park events such as the Regatta. Arena complex could use outdoor patio area "beer garden" for event use and general improvement of experience. Current concrete pad outside of ice rink overhead door is sometimes used for BBQ events or outdoor gathering.
- 3. **INDOOR SPORT COURT / SYNTHETIC TURF:** Switch of sport court and ice rink take up recreation time. There are limited openings for sport court rental and high use/demand for the surface. A possible additional year-round sport court or synthetic turf facility would allow for greater range of programming. Need is there, commercial operators such as Total Sports Experience providing year-round facility.
- 4. **BASEBALL FIELD #4 USE:** Baseball Field #4 (full size hardball, lighted) is currently used too often for other park needs such as parking/trailers during the Regatta, other non-baseball sports leagues or users that want to rent the field with lights. This is due to the location right on the river, close to parking, between the Arena Complex and the GWC. There is a desire to either relocate the hardball diamond or somehow arrange future facilities so that the hardball field can be preserved for its intended use.
- 5. **BALL DIAMONDS #5 & #6:** Diamonds on north side of Elmwood are not as fully utilized as other fields on south side of Elmwood. This may change with the Little League starting up again. These diamonds received new backstops approximately 10 years ago.
- 6. **U OF R NEW FIELDS:** Facilities that opened up last year at the U of R have impacted amount of GVPW field use. Three teams moved their field use from GVPW to the U of R facilities.
- 7. **TENNIS COURTS:** Severe issues with cracking / settlement of the tennis court surface. Thought to be due to high water table. Plan to reconstruct in the future at present location or a possibly new location. Have had some issues with crime at this corner of the park as it's far away from the rest of the facilities.
- 8. **FIELD HOUSE:** Building is well used by the community. Interior needs some upgrades but otherwise the location is good for the neighborhood and the demand is fairly high.
- 9. **BASEBALL FACILITY:** Dedicated baseball facility, including amenities such as dugouts, training/warmup area (batting cage), or other contemporary ball field complex infrastructure (bathrooms, practice area) would be well used.
- 10. **LIMITED PUBLIC SKATE AVAILABILITY:** Due to high demand for ice rink, time for public skating is limited. Would like to add additional slab due to high usage and availability to public (open skate). Rinks could be side-by-side and share infrastructure.
- 11. **POOL AREA:** Pool area needs gathering space and family space. This would allow users, parents, visitors watching events or children to be within the pool area. Spectators currently setup outside of the chainlink fence along the edge of the parking lot. An outdoor space with grass or other sitting amenities inside the fence would also greatly improve the experience of general open-swim leisure. Also a desire for indoor pool to allow for year round use or a combination indoor/outdoor pool facility that will let sun in through the roof.
- 12. SPRAY PARK: Spray park facilities are very popular and get intense use throughout the summer season. This water-play infrastructure mostly serves the local neighborhood. Closest spray facility to GVPW is Troup Street, which is extremely limited (only one very basic spray fountain) and nearly 2 miles away. Desire is for a larger facility that can accommodate many groups and families. Nearby Flint St recreation center (1.1 miles from GVPW) has a round outdoor pool that will likely be replaced with a spray park in 2014.
- 13. **CIRCULATION / WAY-FINDING:** There are way-finding issues with through-trail users, which results in confusion and not knowing where to go to continue through the canal trail or Greenway Trail. Some trail users who have not been to the park before have trouble finding the continuing trail. Park staff has to prepare extra trail signs and/or remark the trails on a regular basis to help with way finding. This is less of an issue with Genesee River Trail users who use the trail on a more frequent basis. Also a need for trail way-finding signage

directing users to downtown, corn hill and directions to nearby Brighton, Pittsford, U of R, RIT (Lehigh Trail)

14. **CIRCULATION CONFLICTS:** Parks staff notes that the river front trail should be brought away from the boat house to lessen conflicts with rowing users at the water edge. The issue is compounded by the location of the trail/GWC waterfront and a nearby hill that tends to cause high-speeds right at the area where signs are directing bikers to walk their bikes (waterfront at the GWC facility).

- 15. **RESTROOMS:** Typically there are restrooms within the GWC building or other facilities for use. However, the restrooms in the GWC have experienced plumbing issues (sanitary line pump failures/backups) so these have generally been closed to public use. The City brings in portable toilets during the summer for the general park / recreation field use.
- 16. **SKATE PARK:** City is currently having a consultant perform a feasibility study for a large Rochester skate park down-river under the SBA-FD Bridge (east side). There may be desire for a small neighborhood-sized skate park.
- 17. DOG PARK: Park is not currently heavily used for dogs and the City has not seen much demand for fenced dog parks.
- 18. **COMMUNITY GARDENS:** City has not experienced demand for community garden space within the park. There are a lot of vacant lots in the adjacent neighborhood and the City has a process for converting them to community gardens.
- E. UPCOMING PARK PROJECTS / FACILITY UPGRADES (Supplemented with notes from City Architectural Services)
- RECENTLY COMPLETED IMPROVEMENTS: New Ice Rink Scoreboard, Pool Mechanical Equipment Replacement, Building Mechanical Upgrades and Ice Rink Compressor Replacement
- 2. ICE RINK SLAB REPLACEMENT: Spring 2013
- 3. **BUILDING RENNOVATION PROJECT (REC CENTER/SPORTS COMPLEX):** In pre-design phase, scope development, includes limited interior upgrades, anticipated +2014
- 4. **POOL DECK REPLACEMENT / ACCESSIBILITY:** Anticipated +2014, Pool Deck Replacement and Accessibility-the pool is not handicapped accessible, the deck is cracking, the foundation of the bulkhead, as well as the lifeguard stand mounting brackets are rusting.
- 5. **PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT:** Anticipated +2015
- 6. TENNIS COURT RECONSTRUCTION: Anticipated +2016, may include relocation to alternate site
- 7. POSSIBLE / NEEDED UPGRADES IN QUEUE (ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DATA, NO TIMELINE): Various Improvements misc. improvements are required from interior lighting, acoustical tile and ceiling grids, flooring, rusting door frames and painting to exterior concrete repairs, landscaping and drainage improvements. GVP Ice Rink Building Insulation Replacement the vinyl faced batt insulation has damage due to age and hockey pucks. GVP Field House Interior Repairs the floor is asbestos, the restrooms need a facelift and the interior needs painting and more durable countertops. GVP Marina building Plumbing Upgrades the sewage lift station is at the end of its useful life, the existing catch basin, ejector pumps and controls need replacement.

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Please notify Bayer Landscape Architecture of any errors or omissions to these meeting minutes.

Zakery Steele, ASLA

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Attachments: n/a